
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4200

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Carrell, O'Brien, Talcott, Conway, Cooper, Hinkle and Campbell

Read first time 01/17/2003. Referred to Committee on Criminal Justice & Corrections.

1 BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 STATE OF WASHINGTON, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION ASSEMBLED:

3 THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state the
4 secretary of state shall submit to the qualified voters of the state
5 for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to
6 Article VII, section 2 of the Constitution of the state of Washington
7 to read as follows:

8 Article VII, section 2. Except as hereinafter provided and
9 notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the aggregate
10 of all tax levies upon real and personal property by the state and all
11 taxing districts now existing or hereafter created, shall not in any
12 year exceed one percent of the true and fair value of such property in
13 money: *Provided, however,* That nothing herein shall prevent levies at
14 the rates now provided by law by or for any port or public utility
15 district. The term "taxing district" for the purposes of this section
16 shall mean any political subdivision, municipal corporation, district,
17 or other governmental agency authorized by law to levy, or have levied
18 for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other than a port or public
19 utility district. Such aggregate limitation or any specific limitation
20 imposed by law in conformity therewith may be exceeded only as follows:

1 (a) By any taxing district when specifically authorized so to do by
2 a majority of at least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing
3 district voting on the proposition to levy such additional tax
4 submitted not more than twelve months prior to the date on which the
5 proposed levy is to be made and not oftener than twice in such twelve
6 month period, either at a special election or at the regular election
7 of such taxing district, at which election the number of voters voting
8 "yes" on the proposition shall constitute three-fifths of a number
9 equal to forty percent of the total number of voters voting in such
10 taxing district at the last preceding general election when the number
11 of voters voting on the proposition does not exceed forty percent of
12 the total number of voters voting in such taxing district in the last
13 preceding general election; or by a majority of at least three-fifths
14 of the voters of the taxing district voting on the proposition to levy
15 when the number of voters voting on the proposition exceeds forty
16 percent of the number of voters voting in such taxing district in the
17 last preceding general election: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any
18 other provision of this Constitution((7)):

19 (1) Any proposition pursuant to this subsection to levy additional
20 tax for the support of the common schools or fire protection districts
21 may provide such support for a period of up to four years ((and));

22 (2) Any proposition to levy additional tax by a city or county for
23 support of law enforcement may provide such support for a period of up
24 to four years;

25 (3) Any proposition to levy an additional tax to support the
26 construction, modernization, or remodelling of school facilities or
27 fire facilities may provide such support for a period not exceeding six
28 years; and

29 (4) Any proposition to levy an additional tax by a city or county
30 to support the construction, modernization, or remodeling of law
31 enforcement facilities may provide such support for a period not
32 exceeding six years;

33 (b) By any taxing district otherwise authorized by law to issue
34 general obligation bonds for capital purposes, for the sole purpose of
35 making the required payments of principal and interest on general
36 obligation bonds issued solely for capital purposes, other than the
37 replacement of equipment, when authorized so to do by majority of at
38 least three-fifths of the voters of the taxing district voting on the

1 proposition to issue such bonds and to pay the principal and interest
2 thereon by annual tax levies in excess of the limitation herein
3 provided during the term of such bonds, submitted not oftener than
4 twice in any calendar year, at an election held in the manner provided
5 by law for bond elections in such taxing district, at which election
6 the total number of voters voting on the proposition shall constitute
7 not less than forty percent of the total number of voters voting in
8 such taxing district at the last preceding general election: *Provided,*
9 That any such taxing district shall have the right by vote of its
10 governing body to refund any general obligation bonds of said district
11 issued for capital purposes only, and to provide for the interest
12 thereon and amortization thereof by annual levies in excess of the tax
13 limitation provided for herein, *And provided further,* That the
14 provisions of this section shall also be subject to the limitations
15 contained in Article VIII, Section 6, of this Constitution;

16 (c) By the state or any taxing district for the purpose of
17 preventing the impairment of the obligation of a contract when ordered
18 so to do by a court of last resort.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause
20 notice of this constitutional amendment to be published at least four
21 times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal
22 newspaper in the state.

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